

CLAIMS

1. A bracket for controlling the inflation trajectory of at least a portion of an inflatable curtain airbag cushion comprising:
 - a bracket mounting panel for securing the bracket to a vehicle;
 - a curtain reaction panel sized to correspond to the length of at least a portion of the inflatable curtain, the reaction panel extending from the bracket mounting panel in an inboard direction at an angle and terminating in an inboard edge; and
 - a curtain pivot positioned on the bracket for rotating the deploying inflatable curtain; wherein the bracket directs the inflation of at least a portion of the inflatable curtain in a direction selected by the positioning of the curtain pivot relative to the mounting panel.
2. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the bracket mounting panel further comprises a mounting tab.
3. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the curtain reaction panel is sized to correspond to a feature selected from the group consisting of a vehicle pillar, an occupant region, and a trim panel.
4. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the curtain reaction panel extends from the bracket mounting panel at a substantially perpendicular angle.
5. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the curtain pivot is a slot for receiving a portion of the inflatable curtain, the slot being positioned on the curtain reaction panel.
6. The bracket of claim 5, wherein the curtain pivot is positioned adjacent the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel.

7. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the curtain pivot is the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel.
8. The bracket of claim 1, including at least two curtain pivots.
9. The bracket of claim 8, wherein the curtain pivots are positioned differentially relative to the mounting panel.
10. The bracket of claim 9, wherein at least one of the curtain pivots is the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel.
11. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the curtain pivot is angled.
12. The bracket of claim 1, wherein the bracket further comprises an inboard reaction panel extending from the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel at an angle substantially perpendicular to the curtain reaction panel such that when mounted in a vehicle, the inboard reaction panel is angled downwardly and outwardly.
13. The bracket of claim 12, wherein the curtain pivot is positioned on the inboard reaction panel.
14. The bracket of claim 13, wherein the curtain pivot is a slot for receiving a portion of the inflatable curtain.
15. The bracket of claim 14, wherein the curtain pivot is positioned adjacent the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel.
16. The bracket of claim 12, including at least two curtain pivots.

17. The bracket of claim 16, wherein the curtain pivots are positioned on the curtain reaction panel or the inboard panel.
18. The bracket of claim 16, wherein curtain pivots are positioned both on the curtain reaction panel and the inboard panel.
19. The bracket of claim 1, further comprising ribs in at least one of the panels of the bracket.
20. An inflatable curtain airbag module comprising:
 - an inflatable curtain airbag cushion;
 - a bracket for controlling the inflation trajectory of at least a portion of the inflatable curtain airbag cushion, the bracket including a mounting panel for securing the bracket to a vehicle, a curtain reaction panel sized to correspond to the length of at least a portion of the inflatable curtain, and a curtain pivot positioned on the curtain reaction panel; wherein the reaction panel extends from the mounting panel at an angle and terminates in an inboard edge.
21. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, wherein the mounting panel of the bracket further comprises a mounting tab.
22. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, wherein the curtain reaction panel is sized to correspond to a feature selected from the group consisting of a vehicle pillar, an occupant region, and a trim panel.
23. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, wherein the curtain reaction panel extends from the bracket mounting panel at a substantially perpendicular angle.

24. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, wherein the curtain pivot is a slot for receiving a portion of the inflatable curtain, the slot being positioned adjacent the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel.
25. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, wherein the curtain pivot is the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel.
26. The bracket of claim 20, including at least two curtain pivots.
27. The bracket of claim 26, wherein the curtain pivots are positioned differentially relative to the mounting panel.
28. The bracket of claim 27, wherein at least one of the curtain pivots is the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel.
29. The bracket of claim 20, wherein the curtain pivot is angled.
30. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, further comprising ribs in at least one of the panels of the bracket.
31. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, wherein the bracket further comprises an inboard reaction panel extending from the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel at an angle substantially perpendicular to the curtain reaction panel such that when mounted in a vehicle, the inboard reaction panel is angled downwardly and outwardly.
32. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 31, wherein the bracket includes at least one curtain pivot positioned on the inboard reaction panel.

33. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 32, wherein the curtain pivot is a slot for receiving a portion of the inflatable curtain.
34. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 33, wherein the curtain pivot is positioned adjacent the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel.
35. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, further comprising ribs in at least one of the panels of the bracket.
36. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, wherein the inflatable curtain airbag cushion is roll-folded.
37. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 20, wherein the inflatable curtain airbag cushion is pleat-folded.
38. The inflatable curtain airbag module of claim 37, wherein the pleat-folded inflatable curtain airbag cushion is placed in the module at an angle to a desired direction of curtain deployment.

39. A bracket for controlling the inflation trajectory of at least a portion of an inflatable curtain airbag cushion comprising:

- a bracket mounting panel having a mounting tab for securing the bracket to a vehicle;

- a curtain reaction panel sized to correspond to the length of at least a portion of the inflatable curtain, the reaction panel extending from the bracket mounting panel in an inboard direction at an angle and terminating in an inboard edge;

- a first curtain pivot positioned on the bracket for rotating the deploying inflatable curtain airbag cushion; and

- a second curtain pivot positioned on the bracket for rotating the deploying inflatable curtain airbag cushion; wherein the bracket directs the inflation of at least a portion of the inflatable curtain airbag cushion in a direction selected by the positioning of the curtain pivot relative to the mounting panel, and wherein the first curtain pivot and the second curtain pivot are positioned differentially relative to the mounting panel.

40. A bracket for controlling the inflation directory of at least a portion of an inflatable curtain airbag cushion comprising:

- a bracket mounting panel having a mounting tab for securing the bracket to a vehicle;

- a curtain reaction panel sized to correspond to the length of at least a portion of the inflatable curtain, the reaction panel extending from the bracket mounting panel in an inboard direction at an angle and terminating in an inboard edge;

- an inboard reaction panel extending from the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel at an angle substantially perpendicular to the curtain reaction panel; and

- a curtain pivot positioned on the inboard edge of the curtain reaction panel for rotating the deploying inflatable curtain airbag cushion; wherein the bracket directs the inflation of at least a portion of the inflatable curtain airbag cushion in a direction selected by the positioning of the curtain pivot relative to the mounting panel.